

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5, 7-10, 12, 19-29, and 40-43 are pending in the application. Claims 19, 20, 40, and 42 are independent. Claims 30-39 have been cancelled.

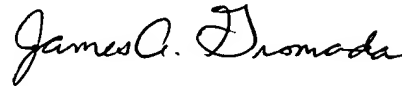
The cancellation of Claims 30-39 moots their rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a).

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed Claims 2-5, 7-10, 12, and 19-29. In addition, the Examiner kindly indicated that Claims 40-43 contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, while specifically traversing the art rejections, and preserving Applicant's right to file a continuation application to pursue the broad but patentable claims, Applicant has amended each of Claims 40 and 42 by rewriting each in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, solely to secure immediate allowance thereof (and their associated dependent Claims 41 and 43).

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
James A. Gromada
Registration No. 44,727

Patent Administrator
KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN
525 West Monroe Street
Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60661-3693
Facsimile: (312) 902-1061